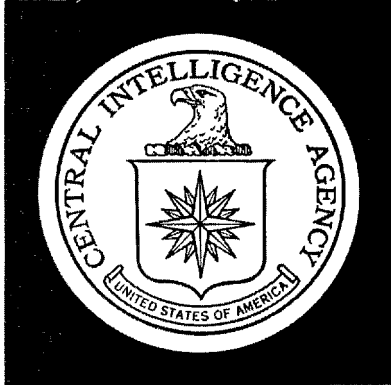


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India: Conflicts within Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet are deepening.

Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai has informed Ambassador Bowles that he now believes he cannot indefinitely back Mrs. Gandhi. Long her chief rival and one of her strongest critics, Desai has loyally given important support to the prime minister since his return to the cabinet after the elections in the spring of 1967. Recently, however, there have been signs of growing strain in their relations and supporters of Mrs. Gandhi may be aiding a leftist campaign in Parliament to discredit Desai.

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Mrs. Gandhi, for her part, is determined to remain in office. Despite her alienation from most of the important party bosses and considerable disenchantment with her performance on the part of rank and file Congress Party deputies, little real enthusiasm has been generated for her ouster.

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Mexico: President Diaz Ordaz is reportedly shocked by the intensity and size of the student protests.

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Diaz Ordaz plans to issue a strong statement on youth and students in his state-of-the-union address at the opening of congress on 1 September, but in the meantime refuses to "dignify" the protests with public mention. Some of his comments seem to reflect an underestimate of the depth of the student grievances and of the strong commitment the students have exhibited toward their cause.

Embassy information indicates that the government will stage a massive worker-peasant rally in favor of Diaz Ordaz after the presidential message-- a tactic that could backfire if the students are angered by the president's message.

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